Miss AMERICA

CHAPTER 1

NEW PERIL-PACKED THRILLS AWAIT THE FAMED

'MISS AMERICA'

IN THIS LATEST ADVENTURE OF INTERNATIONAL SPY INTRIGUE — AS CUNNING MEN AND WOMEN, RUTHLESS IN THEIR GREED FOR POWER, PLAY A NEW, DEADLY GAME AGAINST THE FORCES OF DEMOCRACY!

BEGIN THIS EXCITING STORY NOW!

THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES...
TAXI!
SI, SENOR. HERE!
15 MINUTES LATER...
FUNNY, I CAME BY PLANE FROM WASHINGTON, AND...
DRIVER, THIS ISN'T THE ROAD TO THE AIRPORT! WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WE? YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE GOING. STEP OUT OF THE TAXI AT ONCE, SENOR BANNING, OR I SHOOT!
YOU KNOW MY NAME! IT WAS A TRICK - TO DRIVE ME... I'M COMING OUT!
BUT I'VE A TRICK OR TWO MYSELF!
SUDDENLY...
FOOL! YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD ESCAPE? WE'LL CARRY HIM TO MY CAR, ALFONSE!
SI, SI, CAIRO.
NEXT DAY AT WASHINGTON COUNTER-SPY HEADQUARTERS...
MADELEINE JOYCE!
I TOOK THE FIRST PLANE FROM NEW YORK - AS SOON AS I RECEIVED YOUR URGENT CODE WIRE. WHAT'S UP, CHIEF?
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TED BANNING, ONE OF OUR OPERATORS, HAS VANISHED! HE WAS DUE TO ARRIVE FROM BUENOS AIRES BY CLIPPER, BUT NEVER EVEN BOARDED THE PLANE! BANNING WAS ON A VITAL MISSION. HE HAD OBTAINED THE NAMES OF HIGH-UP ESCAPED NAZIS LIVING THERE.

...AND RIGHT HERE IN THE U.S.!--- NAZIS POSING AS RESPECTABLE AMERICANS, BUT PLOTTING WORLD WAR III! BANNING MUST HAVE MET WITH FOUL PLAY! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM, IF IT ISN'T TOO LATE ALREADY— AND RETRIEVE THAT VITAL LIST!

THAT'S MY JOB—TO GO TO BUENOS AIRES?
EXACTLY! BUT IT WON'T BE EASY, MADELEINE. BANNING WORKED ALONE. THE ONLY WORD WE RECEIVED WAS HIS FINAL CODE MESSAGE THAT HIS JOB WAS DONE. YOU'LL BE STARTING FROM SCRATCH ON A DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT. WILLING TO RISK IT?

OF COURSE!
I EXPECTED THAT FROM YOU! NOW, I SUGGEST YOU CAN BEST MEET PEOPLE BY TRAVELING AS A GAY, WEALTHY TOURIST. NO ONE MUST SUSPECT YOU'RE ALSO MISS AMERICA. GET YOURSELF A DASHING WARDROBE—AND HAPPY HUNTING!

LATER, AT AN EXCLUSIVE NEW YORK SHOP...
WHAT A LOVELY EVENING DRESS! I'LL TAKE IT.
THE SIXTH SHE'S ORDERED THESE PLAYGIRLS—WITH NOTHING ON THEIR MINDS!

SHE'S EXACTLY THE TYPE I NEED... LIGHT-MINDED, UNSUSPECTING ...EASY-GOING ENOUGH TO
...AND I'M LEAVING LATE TODAY!
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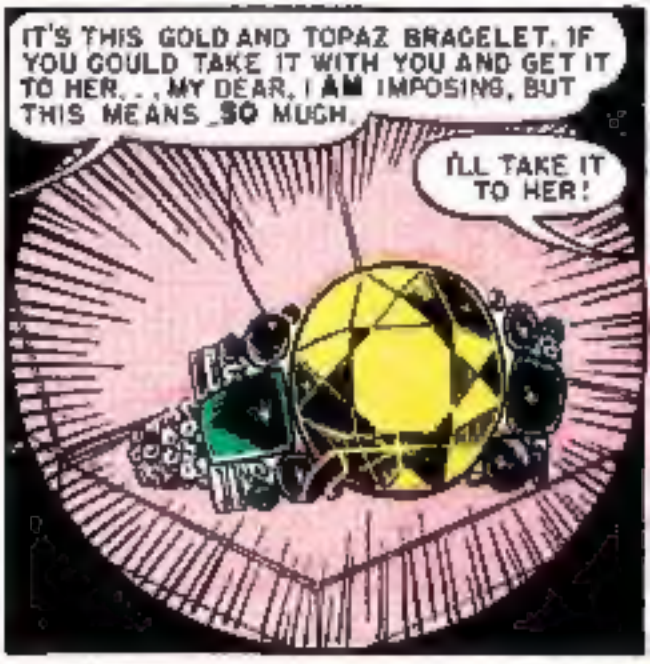
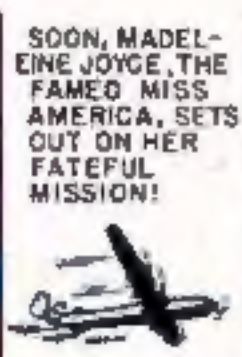
SOMETIME AFTER...
EVERYTHING'S PACKED, MISS JOYCE. OH, THE DOOR...
PROBABLY THE PORTER FOR THE BAGS.

MISS JOYCE, PLEASE FORGIVE THE INTRUSION. I'M MRS. WYATT VARNHAM, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MME. TREMONT OF LAMODE DRESS SHOP. SHE TELLS ME YOU ARE LEAVING FOR BUENOS AIRES. I KNOW I'M IMPOSING, BUT...

WHAT IS IT?
MY ONLY SISTER, A SINGER, LIVES IN BUENOS AIRES. HER BIRTHDAY IS THIS SATURDAY, BUT THE GIFT I HAD SPECIALLY ORDERED FOR HER WASN'T READY UNTIL TODAY. IT WON'T REACH HER ON TIME THROUGH THE MAILS.


IT'S THIS GOLD AND TOPAZ BRACELET. IF YOU COULD TAKE IT WITH YOU AND GET IT TO HER... MY DEAR, I AM IMPOSING, BUT THIS MEANS SO MUCH.
I'LL TAKE IT TO HER!

YOU'RE AN ANGEL! ELISE LIVES AT 3 MAGRETA ROAD. I HOPE SOMEDAY I CAN REPAY YOUR KINDNESS!
SHE IS SO GRATEFUL... IT WAS HARD TO REFUSE!
YOUR BAGS, MISS?
PORTER


SOON, MADELEINE JOYCE, THE FAMED MISS AMERICA, SETS OUT ON HER FATEFUL MISSION!

TO LAGUARDIA AIRPORT, PLEASE!
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RIGHT ON TIME FOR THE PLANE. BUT I HAD A FEELING WHEN I STEPPED INTO THE TAXI THAT SOMEONE WAS WATCHING ME!

MORE WATCHFUL EYES—BUT APPARENTLY FRIENDLIER!
FLIGHT 12—BUENOS AIRES READY! ALL PASSENGERS STEP ABOARD!
HUBBA-HUBBA! THERE'S A GAL I'D LIKE TO KNOW. VERY, VERY ATTRACTIVE!

PARDON ME, YOUNG MAN... DO YOU HAVE A LIGHT?
WE'RE ON OUR WAY! THE MORE I SEE OF HER, THE MORE I...

GLAD TO KNOW YOU. I'M PETER CARR—AND TRAVELING ALONE.
THANK YOU. SINCE WE'RE FELLOW TRAVELERS, I'LL INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M JAMES ILES... THE LADY WITH ME IS MRS. ILES.

THOSE TWO ARE MEETING AS IF FOR THE FIRST TIME. YET THROUGH THIS MIRROR I SAW ILES HAND CARR A SLIP OF PAPER WHILE GETTING A LIGHT. I SHOULD MEET THESE PEOPLE.

ONE WAY TO START THINGS ROLLING...
OH—MY LIPSTICK!

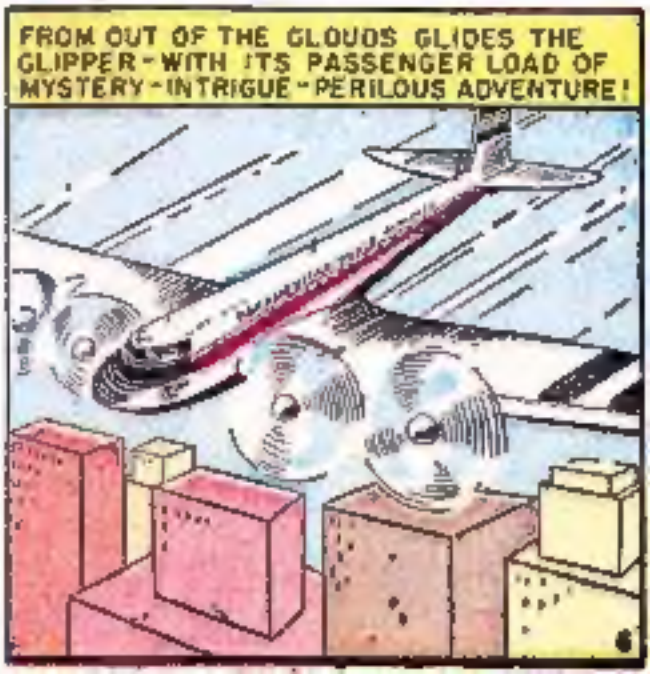
I HAVE IT!
WHAT A BREAK FOR ME!

PERMIT ME... BUT YOUR LIPS DON'T NEED THIS ARTIFICIAL AID!
FLATTERER!

I CONFESS I LIKED YOU THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU. I'M REALLY GLAD YOU DROPPED YOUR LIPSTICK!
YOU DO SAY NICE THINGS!
HE IS ATTRACTIVE!

ABOVE THE CLOUDS... FRIENDSHIP GROWS, MIXING CAUTION AND ATTRACTION!
...AND I'M A WRITER. LIVED IN CALIFORNIA ALL MY LIFE. BUT I'M WORKING ON A NOVEL NOW WITH AN ARGENTINE SETTING AND NEED SOME REAL ATMOSPHERE.
WELL, MY TRIP HAS NO PURPOSE. JUST PLEASURE.

HOURS LATER...
CARR'S MADE REAL HEADWAY WITH THAT JOYCE GIRL. I SLIPPED HIM A NOTE TELLING HIM SHE'S THE ONE TO KNOW. WE'LL HANDLE THE REST!
...AND NOTHING HAD BETTER GO WRONG! JAMES, WE'RE LANDING!


FROM OUT OF THE CLOUDS GLIDES THE CLIPPER - WITH ITS PASSENGER LOAD OF MYSTERY - INTRIGUE - PERILOUS ADVENTURE!

SOON, AT THE GRANDE PALAZZIA HOTEL...
AM I GLAD WE'RE STOPPING AT THE SAME PLACE! DON'T FORGET WE'VE A DINE-DANCE DATE TONIGHT.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN! LET'S CHECK IN!

I'LL PUT DOWN MY JOHN HANCOCK RIGHT AFTER YOURS!
HE PUT DOWN HIS GLOVES, AND THAT'S VERY INTERESTING...

...BECAUSE HE SAID HE LIVES IN CALIFORNIA - BUT THOSE NEW-LOOKING GLOVES HAVE A BRUSSELS STAMP, AND L.R. CERTAINLY AREN'T PETER'S INITIALS!

DINNERTIME...
THERE'S CERTAINLY A GOOD DEAL TO SUSPECT ABOUT PETER. OH DEAR ..BUT HE IS SO ATTRACTIVE. I HOPE MY SUSPICIONS OF HIM ARE UNFOUNDED!

MUST BE READY FOR ANY EMERGENCY!

WHILE AT THE SAME TIME...
MANUEL! YOU MADE EXCELLENT TIME TO BUENOS AIRES! NEARLY AS GOOD AS THE CLIPPER... THE JOYCE GIRL HAS ARRIVED!
HA, THEN THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE! TONIGHT!
DANGER LURKS EVERYWHERE FOR MISS AMERICA ON HER DARING MISSION!
DON'T MISS THE NEXT EXCITING EPISODE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARVEL NO.77 OCT.!

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